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## SECRETS OF HISTORY.

THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE. WAS GRANT'S ORDER A BLUNDER? To the Editor of The Tribune.

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SIR: The Washington correspondent of The Cincinnals Gazette and the reporter of The Louisville Courier-Journal have succeeded in bringing to light nany of the facts connected with the famous order relieving Gen. Thomas at Nashville, and thus gratifying a curiosity which has long existed in the public mind o that subject. So long as the publication was confined to a solution of the question, "Who Struck Hilly Patterson!" or who parried the blow, it need not have excited any interest beyond that public curiosity which it was intended to gratify. But The Cincinnati Guzelle of Feb. 8, in commenting upon the subject, and The Course Journal, from which The Gazette quotes, assert as a fact which they assume everybody Grant's order relieving Thomas and putting Schofield in ommand was a great blunder, and that by Halleck's ntervention or some other fortunate circumstance the

which must otherwise have resulted from this "blunder of the General-in-Chief. This language must sound strangely chough to the soldiers who then composed Gen. Thomas's army, less than half of whom had a few days before defeated Hood's army and put hors du combat 6,000 of his best men, including 13 general officers, and this under the commander whose supersedure of Thomas The Gazette and Courier-Journal think would have been a disastron

ountry was saved from the disastrous conseque

There are many things connected with the late war that might better be kept secret during this generation; but, since so much has been said on this subject, justice requires that the truth be told even at this early day.

The facts are that, after the battle of Franklin and Hood's farcical attempt at a siege of Nashville, nebody at Nashville had any doubt but the result would be the total defeat and destruction of Hood's army. The only ground of apprehension was that Hood would run away, in a fit of desperation make a raid into Kentucky, where he could do some damage and scare everybody north of the Ohio. But for this, it was of very slight consequence whether Thomas attacked Hood at once of

As to the time being favorable or unfavorable to make change of commanders, the facts seem to be entirely misapprehended. The Army at Nashville was composed of one corps (the 4th) of the Army of the Cumberland the 23d Corps, Army of the Ohio; A. J. Smith's two divisions, Army of the Tennessee, and mixed troops of various organizations, or no organization, and new reg ments, so that Thomas had but one corps, the 4th, of his old army, and Schofield the same. These two corps under Schoffeld had been fighting Hood for two weeks, ending with Franklin, during all of which time Gen. Thomas was in Nashville. It would have been quite as easy for Schoffeld to continue to command after the junction with Thomas at Nashville, or to resume it after a few days, as it was to exercise it at and before Franklin. Indeed, much easier, for the enemy had then been whipped until there was very little fight in him, and there was not the remotest possibility of his attacking Nashville. Our troops were, and had been for some days, lying quietly in their trenches, and the only question was when and in what manner to attack the memy. Upon the former part of this subject enough has been perhaps already published. As to the plan of at tack in that Gen. Thomas made the only mistake, it was possible that a man having any military knowledge, not to say experience, could make. There was but one plan of attack worthy of serious consideration under the ci amstances, which was to strike the enemy's "left" while pressing the rest of his line enough to compel him to occupy it in force, and guarding our own position suff ciently to secure it against a successful counter-attack The only practical question was as to the strength that should be given the attack-ing force, or the number of men neces-sary to be left comparatively idle, and in this Gen. Thomas made a mistake of full 10,000 men! Upon this error being explained to him, he gave verbal orders for reserve near the attacking force, where it lay idle from early in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. At that time, Thomas discovered that his attacking force was not sufficient, and ordered in the reserve. Even this partial correction of his error contributed largely to the ccess of the first day's attack. Had the error been fully corrected by putting in the 10,000 idle men in the norning, it is safe to say that the success would have been much greater. Gen. Thomas in his efficial report quotes his original order, and says "it was carried out without material modification," Those who know Thomas best, give him credit for the utmost honesty and truthfulness, as well as for other high qualities of a man and soldier. All such will readily believe that he did not

the fight was over that he could not be induced to give orders to renew the attack in the morning. Conse quently, many of the troops lay idle until late in the day, nd when they did attack, it was too late to profit by the brilliant success which was gained only a few minutes before dark. It is more than probable that if the attack had been made in the morning, none of Hood's artitlery or infantry could have escaped across the Harpeth After the battle, the pursuit was made by the cavalry along the main road, while the infantry was compelled to follow after so slowly that a corps could not move its ength in three days. It requires no military genius t

see anything material in the modification of his plan of

battle. But it is quite certain that his principal sub-

ordinates saw it very clearly.

In the evening after the first day's battle, Gen. Thoma

the firm belief that he was then in full retreat; and a

was only by earnest assurance of his error that he was

nduced to suspend these orders until daylight should

develop the fact whether Hood really was in full-retreat,

or was ready to give us battle. So sure was Thomas that

see that the pursuit on the main pike should have been nade by infantry, with rations in haversacks, and that the cavalry should have been sent by other roads upon the enemy's flanks. In this way the cavalry might have cendered some service to justify the long delay to mount

it. As it was, its only service was on foot. As a single incident to illustrate the character of the provisions made for a rapid and effective pursuit of Hood, it may be mentioned that after the pursuit had compreneed the pontoon train at Nashville, which was neces sary to cross the Harpeth at Franklin, was ordered by Gen. Thomas to move out on the Murfreesboro Pike This ridiculous blunder delayed the pursuit until a bridge

could be built across the Harpeth at Franklin. The result of all this was that Hood made good his retreat across the Tennessee with more than 50 pieces of artillery, much the larger portion of his trains, and

nearly all his men who were not killed or captured in his tranches near Nashville. It was hardly possible, with the splendid army Gen. Thomas had under his command, to have done less. But

a great victory had been gained. The end of the Rebellion began to be visible to the people of the country, and they were satisfied. All were glad to honor and re ward the commander under whom this had been accomplished, and who had already and deservedly won the affections and esteem of his troops and of the people.

When Hood had made his escape, Gen. Thomas published an order announcing that " the enemy had been driven across the Tennessee !" and that the campaign was ended. He then ordered the troops to go late Winter quarters, the 23d corps at Dalton, where the last Spring ampaign had commenced, the 4th corps at Huntaville, Ale., &c. ; and then commenced planning a campaign against Corinth for the next Spring and Summer. Gen. Schofield, apparently not appreciating such a mode of prosecuting the war to a speedy termination, on the 26th of December wrote to Gen. Grant at City Point, saying that Hood was then used up, and even by Spring could not reorganize and recruit up a force capable of coping with Thomas's army, less his corps, the 23d; mying that Mobile instead of Nashville was the point from which to operate against the Gulf States, if indeed such operations had not become unnecessary; that in fact Lee's army was about all there was left of the Rebellion, and the true policy was to concentrate against Lee, and asking

to be transferred with his corps to the Atlantic. On the 7th of January, 1865, Gen. Grant telegraphed an order to Gen. Thomas to send Schoffeld and his Corps East, and about the same time ordered the 4th corps to the Guif. Thus ended Thomas's plan for a campaign during the Summer after the close of the war.

The facts herein stated, which are well known to many who were in the army at Nashville, show at least that Gen. Grant was not guilty of a "disastrous blunder" in ordering Thomas to be superseded before the battle of Nashville. The result may well be accepted as proving that the order was unnecessary, and hence unjust to an officer who had done as faithful and efficient service as Gen. Thomas. But it is absurd to suppose that the

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE. WINTER ON THE CONTINENT—AMERICAN SKATES-MANSHIP ABROAD—REBUBLICAN TOADIES— IMPERIAL ILLS—BARON LEYS' WINTER

PICTURE. [FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.] Paris, Feb. 16.-In default of political news-for, since M. Ollivier and his chum Piétri have shut up in the prisons all the people with brains, there is nothing of luterest going on-the oldest inhabitant has been writing daily letters to all the newspapers, declaring that within his memory it has never been so cold in Paris as during the last week. And the cold has, indeed, been almost unendurable. No carpenter in Paris, so far as my experience goes-and the remark is as applicable to rich people's houses as to poor people's-knows how to make a door or window air-tight; fuel is dear; and a well-constructed firepiace is a thing so rare as to be practically unknown; and with these three conditions you may imagine how well we fare in Paris when such a long storm rages as we are now suffering under. There is only one consolation, and that is, that the countries just at us are suffering even more than we. There's sielly with not a window-sash in its whole domain, and only one chimney-Mount Etna-in the island, distracted to know where it shall warm its fingers. The orange and lemon trees there are nipped, the fountains is frozen, and the oldest inhabitant, who has never seen the like, is busy collecting specimens of ice for the national museum In Muscow and Poland, too, we are encouraged by hearing that the cold is frightful-25° below zero, and in Auvergue and the south of France they are ng what enjoyment they can out of snow twelve nd fifteen feet deep. The Paris newspapers, by dint of collecting a good many details of this kind, have succeeded in diffusing a considerable amount of cheerfulness through the public, the only drawback being an almost absolute dearth of facts as to frightful deaths in consequence of the cold, which gives rise to an uneasy suspicion that the stories are exaggerated. This is not conducive to amiability, because we know that our own wretchedness is indispolable; the cold of the past week (and even to-'s brilliant sanshine brings no sensible ameliora tion) is something not to be winked out of sight The lovers of skating have looked forward, since the cold set in last Wednesday, to having a merry time but the high winds that have prevailed have prevented the ponds, and, of course, the Scine, from freezing, and 't is only just now that it has been pronounced safe to go upon the ice in the Bois de Boulegue. For some days, however, the basin of the fountains in the Tuileries garden nearest the Place de la Concorde has been frozen solid, and a dens circle of spectators has surrounded it the whole day long, enjoying the sight of the clamsy skating and sliding kept up by street boys and workmen. From want of practice, nearly all Parisians are poor skaters d the sight, even on the ice of the Skating Club Lake in the Bois, is less pleasing than on many a village pend at home; but sometimes an American or a visitor from the north of Europe, puts on his skates and astonishes the natives with his graceful performances. One of our countrymen the other day was enjoying the beautiful sport on the pond in the Bois, when he saw a gentleman distin guishing himself among the awkward squad of Parisians by his grace and skill, and in his good spirits at seeing anything that looked like science, be called out without thinking, "How are you, New York Skating Club!" The unknown, giving a long and graceful roll to the north-east, lifted his cap and called out, "You've hit it!" There is a funny story of another of our countrymen, flying about, which t will do no harm to repeat. He is an engraver, and when he came to Paris, the first thing he did, of

course, as a loyal American and Republican, was, to bait a hook for the imperial notice, which all good Americans lunger and thirst after, with a specimen knows nor cares about such things, took no notice of the gift, if, ludeed, he ever saw it. Our countryman went one day, to the Bois de Boulogne with his skates, and, seeing a pond in fine condition, and with only a few well-dressed people on it, put on his skates and began his play. Comes up a gentleman, and that he is doubtless not aware he is trespassing on retreat. Suave personage renews the expression of his lively regret at being obliged, &c. Republican, with equal snavity renews the expression of his lively regret that he should have interfered with imperial joys. Snave personage hesitates, hums, haws says that, to avoid awkwardness, the stranger may make a turn or two, and then retire as if he went of his own sweet will. Republican sails away delighted, swims, curvets, curves, curls, caracels, glides, spins, twists, braids, in short, carries the art of skating to such perfection that, as he is about to retire, suave personage comes up, more suave than ever, and requests him to continue for the delight of

manship. Needless to say that the republican heart danced high at such noble generosity, and, beside the gratification of being flattered by such noble personages, felt no small hope enkindled that something might now come of the apparently forgotten engravings. His caracols fimshed, snave personage approaches with a ticket, giving unlimited permission to skate in the imperial preserves so long as heaven shall send ice, and thanking our country man for the pleasure, &c., &c. Needless to say that ·the skating was persistently followed up, in hopes that something might come of it; but alas, the Imperial party never appeared again, and nothing sver did come of it. The story is insignificant except as one illustration out of a thousand that might be given of the toadying spirit that exists among Americans in Paris toward the Imperial Court. 1t

exists to a certain extent, and is excusable enough

among the English-but among no other people ex-

cept our own and the English-the French them-

his most sacred Majesty the Emperor and that of all

the Imperial Family, who are in their tent, blessing

the day that ever they saw such wondrous skates-

selves, outside of the official circle, being absolutely free from it. With the great majority of Americans, it is a simple mania, and I could fill my letter if it were necessary with illustration upon illustration. But, 't is not a subject so agreeable that I care to dwell on it. The cold weather is the more remarkable because, in the beginning of February, all the signs were that there would be an early Spring. The old proverbs were quoted when "Purification," now called "Candlemas," came in with soft airs and a

Candlemas either puts an end To Winter, or new force doth l A la fête de Chandeleur, L'inver se passe ou prend vigueur." And when the weather still continued kind, they

Donne feuilles au groseillier."
A February mild doth push
The leaves out, on the current bush."

But all these pleasant prophecies have been put to rout, and there begin to be serious fears for the safe ty of the early fruits, as well as for that of cherries and plums, apricots and peaches, fruits, all of them very important, commercially, to France.

One effect of the cold weather has been that the whole of the Imperial family, that is, all of it that is at the Tuileries-has been in bed with the "gripe," derstand that the two cousins of the Emperor. be of the Palais Royal and he of the Conciergerie have both escaped, but the rest of them have had a serious time. At first it was said that the little Prince had the small-pox, but happily this was not the case, and after some days' confinement to his bed, the newspapers say that he has been out skating. So, too, has the old gentleman, though I magine that his performances in this way do not

with looking on at such Americans as he can get to skate for his ampsement. The Empress has been the most ill of the three, and is not well yet. Balls dinner-parties, and supper-parties, have had to be put off, one after another, and there was even a chance that the Archdoke Albert might be obliged o go away from Paris without seeing his noble friends in their own house. The Emperor, however, has called on him, and that is something. You will gather from these statements of the activity of Napoleon III., that there is still life in him, and indeed there seems to be no immediate danger of his

Still to be harping on skating. I had the great pleasure yesterday of seeing a fine picture by the late Baron Levs, a work which comes from a private collection, and which has never before been exhibited. It is dated 1859 1865, and is called "The Skaters," though no one is skating, there is no ice and only one person has skates, and they are in his hand. This reminds me of our old college joke about dear Dr. Walker, who, from his peculiar shuffling gait we boys used to call "Walker a non Walkendo." But, if the people in Baron Leys's picture are not skating themselves, they are pleased because of the skating of others. They are standing on the draw-bridge, or what looks like it, of a wealthy burgher's house in Antwerp, and looking out upon the pend which is supposed to be in front of them. At the left is the window of a baker's shop, with its piled-up loaves and suggestion of warm ovens within; in the middle of the picture is a bit of that medieval Antwerp which Leys knew so well how to paint, and at the right we see the portal of the rich citizen's house, where one of the retainers is standing blowing a horn. The group of persons who are gravely looking on at the sport below for "enjoyment" would be an exaggerate expression of their serious satisfaction, is composed of persons of various ranks in life-burghers, workingmen and women, children, every one a separate individual study of character belonging to the time, but also belonging to human nature, and so to all time. There is a lady in the long cloak, fur collar, and head-dress of the time that Leys has made so familiar, who is passing the baker's shop, holding her little girl by the hand. She is so beautifully painted that Holbein might have out his signature upon the canvas without dissatisfaction. And the noble young burgher's son, who stands on the bridge, and is seen at full length, is qually fine. I saw this picture at the new gallery of Messrs. Goupil & Co., at the end of the Rue de la Paix. The fittings of the rooms are not quite completed yet, but are nearly ready, and when finished they will make the finest place of the sort in Paris. The house is to retain its establishment on the Boulevard Montmartre and its well-known gallery on the Rue Chaptal, so that the new place means one more attraction for lovers of art in Paris, not one

ROME.

THE JEWS OF THE GHETTO-INFALLIBILITY IM-MINENT-MEETINGS OF THE POPE AND THE CARDINALS—FONTIFICAL VISIT TO THE ART EXHIBITION—VIOLATED SECRECY. PROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

ROME, Feb. 20 .- I wandered down to the Ghette ast Saturday. It was the Jewish Sabbath, consequently all the shops were shut and the people were uning themselves in the plazza or the streets. I have a special tenderness for the chosen people of God, whose characteristic features, wherever they may be, have been generated in a great measure by the merciless persecution of Christiaus, and it may interest many to know what is the present position of the Jews in Rome. That name, as also that of Hebrews, is offensive to the ear-they call themselves Israelites. So at least their highest authorities in this city told me-and in number they answer to about 5 000. How it is possible to squeeze so many into so small a space puzzled me; but in suffering, per ons are apt to congregate together and put up with many disagreeable things for the sake of sympathy ter of choice. They have been compelled to reside within the limits of a certain quarter, and though this compulsion has in a few cases been relaxed lately, it is only by favor of the Vicar-General that some have btained permission to reside in the immediate neigh borhood of the close and foul Ghetto. Three thousand with the greatest suavity informs our republicand of their number are in a state of great misery, and earn a wretched subsistence by wandering about the Emperor's private pond. Republican, who was Rome-the remaining two thousand are in various s profuse apologies, and prepares to degrees better off, and are engaged in trade. Of course the Government does nothing for their poor, whom it almost condemns to be poor, by closing many of the roads which lead to wealth-on the ontrary, it taxes the community to the amount of ,600 sendi, or dollars, a year for the good of their souls. That is to say, they are made to contribute that sum to the institutions of the Catechumeni and the Convertiti, and cooperate with the Government in their own conversion. I could not discover, however, that much of this money is expended on the objects professedly in view-the Israelities are not compeiled to send their children to be drilled into Roman Catholicism; and since the affair of Mortara, no other case of kidnapping has occurred. For Mortara, as may be supposed, now bids fair to be a saint in Heaven-he is pursuing the career of the priesthood, and has already edified his spiritual guides by some incipient public performance. Let the truth, however, be speken: during the Pontificate of Pius IX. their position has been improved. One of his earliest acts was to remove the walls or gates which shut them in. They are not obliged to attend periodically at a church, and hear themselves abused, no are they called upon to contribute to the expenses of the running horses at the carnival, nor annually to go down to the Capitol and to thank the Senate, as I have seen them do, for the protection they had received during the past year. I do not think that the Council, which seems resolved on imposing tresh conditions on mental liberty, will do much for the

Jews. So let us leave them. Such an amount of blasphemy as has been elicited by these discussions since the Council was opened it has never been my misfortune to hear through a long life. "Don't speak any more of the Trinity," say some, "but of the Quadrinity; for Pius IX. is henceforth to be the fourth person in the Godhead." Pasquino, two days ago, exhibited some biting sarcasm on the subject, but the police discovered it so early that up to the present time it has not got into circulation. "Do you know the last dogma?" said a highly educated gentleman yesterday. "Well, it is that God became man, and Pins IX. has become God for human salvation." Puzzling questions suggest themselves in the event of Infallibility being carried. "Supposing the Pope become insane ?" "A new one would be elected," it is answered. "Yes; but an interval has passed, and must yet again pass, before it can be verified; and what would be the consequence if, in that interval, he has spoken excathedra?" It is clear, says a friend, that His Holiness must always have a physician by his side. Another Bishop, Gil y Bueno of Huesca and Bar

bastro, has died, and 24 have asked permission to leave, not for the next world, but for their Dioceses. Many of the American Bishops, some of whom are lodged in the American College, in rooms certainly large enough to turn round in, are anxious to be off, though they are not more impatient than others. They complain of the diet, of the climate, of the expenses, and long to be over the Atlantic and far away. But until Infallibility be defined in its absolute or modified form, there is little chance of their

Information just received, and known to even few of the Bishops, throws much light on what I have already communicated. Infallibility is positively to be brought forward, and hence the discouragement though not the diminution of the opposition. At a meeting of the Pope and private deputation of 26 Cardinals and Bishops held in the Vatican on Sunday, the 6th inst., the Postulatum securit to much. He probably contents himself or Postulata, for I believe there were several.

demanding the definition of Infallibility, was accepted. The meeting lasted from 9 till 14 o'clock so that we may conclude the great question was well discussed. Again, another meeting of Cardinals, the Pope being present, was held on the 15th inst., at the Vatican, and the particular phase which the question is to assume was considered. The formula was to be completed on the night of the 16th inst., and copies will be distributed to the Bishops in three or four days. So far, then, the first step has been taken, and I do not see how it could have been avoided after the agitation that has been created by the extreme portion of the Roman Catholic press. What will the formula say? Nothing about Infallibility, reply those who are in the secret. Perhaps not; but the idea will be enunciated as strongly as though clothed in precise words. It will be brought forward as soon as the Little Catechism is disposed of, and hundreds will speak upon it, according to my informant; so that no decision will be made until the return of the Fathers in October. Passions will then have cooled down; we are now on the crest of the wave: were it decided now, one of the two parties would certainly leave Rome in anger! It may be added that by leaving the decision till the Autumn, another meeting of the Council will be insured, and in a diminished form; for 24 Bishops have already expressed a desire to return to their Dioceses, and have obtained leave to go home, and there remain, without troubling themselves any more about the Council. By a little clever manipulation, the opposi-

tion may be considerably reduced. It is on the cards that a party in antagonism to the opportuneness of bringing the subject forward at all, may draw up a protest and leave, but they must wait till some "Concitiar" illegality has been committed, and such an opportunity has not yet been presented. Everything has been conducted scrupuously according to the regulations of the Constitution, which were presented to them at starting. It is complained, indeed, and here the opportunity might be made, that while new schemes are being presented to the Congregations, the old ones which, after discussion, were sent down to the respective Deputations to be modified, have not as yet been returned. Will they be ! If they are not, the flimsy assertion that free discussion is guaranteed will be blown to the winds, for no one will pretend that the delivery of long orations, already cut and dried, constitutes free discussion.

Since I wrote, a discovery of some importance ha been made, and high-handed justice has been administered. You are aware that much scandal has been created by the publication in the German and English journals of portions of the schema de Ecclesia et Pontifice Romano. The Legates on more than one occasion reproved the Pathers, and a fiery Bishop emptied the Council hall by his stern denunciations of moral dishonesty. Who could be the guilty man? -who was it that had committed what the Pope decreed to be a mortal sin! It was amusing to listen to the various theories proposed. The post-office was at length watched, and a letter directed to the Allgemeine Zeitung was stopped, in which was inclosed one of the schemata of Cardinal Hohenlohe, with some said that the theologian of the Cardinal, who is a German, was sent out of Rome immediately. More over, four members of the Committee of " Asseguatori dei Posti" were called, and informed that their services were dispensed with, but three were afterward summoned and told that their cases would be taken into favorable consideration. The fourth, who was left in the burch, is Monseigneur Vorsak, a German and theologian of Strossmayer, who has been ne of the most eloquent erators of the opposition. There are, however, many holes and eravices still to step, through which intelligence will leak out, and that diabolical institution called journalism will, perforce, report it to the world.

Yesterday the exhibition of works of art produced under the influences of the Reman Catholic religion, such is the formula, was visited by His Holiness the Pope, and to-morrow it will be opened to the public. Preceded by a carriage and four, the descendant of the apostles drove up at 11 s'alack in the forencen, in a carriage with six horses, followed by a carriage also with six horses, and three others with four horses There were troops of the line on the ground, and dragoons, and noble guards, and such a prancing and neighing and trumpeting las might have awakened St. Peter himself. But what would the fisherman have said or thought fat so early an hour the crowd was not great, and though many went demonstration was far from being striking. The exhibition is to be held within the cloisters of the Church of St. Maria degli Angeli, an imposing building among the ruins of the Baths of Diocletian. In form, the exhibition-room is circular, and is divided into 16 rooms, converging upon one center, a little garden, in which are the cypress trees planted by Michael Angelo. Each room is therefore a trapezium, an unartistic form, and a passage runs into them all round the circle. From every fourth room there is a glass door which leads by two or three steps into the garden. By special permission I visited it twice ast week and found silks and glass from Paris and Lyons, books with resplendent bindings from Milan, and elsewhere. France is the great contributor. Italy sends little or nothas Italian subjects were prohibited from sending, a prohibition savoring somewhat of littleness. Many of the contributors complain that their goods have arrived in a sad state, and one of them is said to have had objects in glass broken to pieces, entailing a loss of 5,000 francs. The local papers regard it as the act of the revolutionists, as they would probably every accident that might occur at the present moment. The general effect of the Exhibition Rooms is very pretty, and, without descending into minute criticism, there can be no doubt that visitors in Rome will find them a very

agreeable lounge.

I have left it to the end of my lefter to give you resumé of what has been done in the Council during the week, or rather since the scheme of the Little Catechism now under discussion was first broached. On the 10th February eight Fathers spoke, on the 14th five spoke, on the 15th eight, and to-day, according to my information, six will speak. This, by the by, is the 27th meeting of the General Congregation The object desired is to introduce one uniform catechism for the whole Roman Catholic world, and that the Roman founded on Bellarmine's. Bishon Clifford was auxious to retain that of Canisius, who, by the by, was a Jesuit, as well as Bellarmine. David, Moreno, Dupanloup, and perhaps others were opposed to the Roman Catechism, Dupanloup wishing to retain his own. Should the six on my private list speak to-day, there will remain only eleven Fathers announced to address the Council on the Catechism, and this scheme may be finished off in a week. Then comes the tug of war, but you will perceive I have erred in some degree in my calculation of the number of the speakers and the length of their orations. I confirm positively and absolutely all that I have said about the menaced action of the French Government in the event of Infallibility being carried. Such an event will probably lead to the withdrawal of the French troops and the tearing up of the Concordat; but here they are blind, and are rushing over the preci-On Wednesday, Monseigneur Darbots, Archishop of Paris, gave a dinner to the Embassadors of France and Austria and the Ministers of Prussia and Bayaria. It is here considered a diplomatic and political event, and has created considerable sensation at the Vatican. Nevertheless, maddened by religious passion, the Ultramontanists are speeding on utterly regardless of consequences.

A cartoon in the Paris Charitari displays Gen. Changarnier and M. Odilon Barrot showing their heads above a great expanse of water, and has the three lines:

"Good day, M. Odilon Barrot !" of so little experience in art and so little reputation as

FINANCIAL CHOCTAW IN CONGRESS-MR. GOLLA-DAY'S "PRECIPITANCY"—THE LUNTEN COLLAPSE—CARL SCHURZ ON THE INTERNA-TIONAL EXHIBITION-THE ROMULUS AND REMUS SCULPTORS OF THE GOVERNMENT-

WASHINGTON SKETCHES.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR ART. Washington, March 8 .- Nearly all last week they were talking financial Choctaw in both Houses of Congress, and your poor uninitiated correspondent found little joy in the perplexing discussions. I think on the whole I would rather attend an Indian council. I should not find it more puzzling, and I should find it more pic turesque. The other day I heard Mr. Howe, and to-day have heard Mr. Scott on the same mysterious, mighty super-woman topics-" funding the national debt," " inflation, and contraction of the currency," &c. I really listened to their speeches, for though I do not in the least understand this same Choctaw, as the the country man said of the Greek, "I love the sound of it" when Senator Howe or Senator Scott talks it. I hope the tender of my respectful compliments is a " legal tender." In the House I heard the brief but somewhat confused

discussion of the case of Mr. Golladay, who wants to come back, and laments, like poor Whittemore, his "precipitancy" in resigning. They voted him out, as you see, though the Governor of the State declares him to be in. so he hangs suspended, like Mohammed's coffin. Let us hope that no more resignations in the face of conviction and expulsion will be permitted-that Congress will allow no more such culprits to beat an easy retreat from just punishment, and content itself with firing after them blank cartridges in the shape of votes of censure I cannot for the soul of me see the use of so much talk. I think the Irishman's ideas were the most sensible and time-saving. He proposed, you know, to deal with his enemy after a simple, summary manner, to "treat him with silent contempt, and kick him down stairs." How foompletely, it seems to me, this queer complication has proved the wisdom of the opinion of Mr. Dawes and Gen. Banks, that a member should not be allowed to resign while under trial for misdemeanor, or while investigations into charges against him are pending! By the way, I could but notice yesterday how, in the midst of the confusion of spirited debate, of eager, rapid and indistinct utterances, on the floor of the House, the voice of Gen. Banks, not loud, not sharp, not passionate, was always heard. It has a bugic-like clearness-it gives forth a certain sound, which is, after all, more apt to be arrestive than exciting, to restrain than to arouse. He always seems reasonable and unvexed, whatever the question may be and however the muddy waters may boil around him.

Quite the opposite to him is Mr. Bingham, who yes terday made his great effort on the Georgia bill. most carnest, impassioned, rapid orator is he, gifted with equal force and fluency. In speaking, he frequently leaves his seat-which is one of the first line on the emi-circular space in front of the Speaker's desk-and, after making a point, returns in silence, but only again to saily forth, reminding one of some flery old animal, energing from his dea on a foray, and returning after The old Scotch woman, boasting of the power of her minister, said that "he had already banged the usides out of twa Bibles;" and I thought it was well for the Holy Scriptures that no copy lay within reach of Mr. Bingham's vigorous whacks yesterday. Neither Moses nor the prophets could have stood before him. As it was, be banged every desk in his vicinity, and made ill ring and rattle again. Mr. Bingham is certainly a very powerful debater; and, could he only speak with more deliberation and distinctness, would be a very im pressive orator. He looks like a man of power, and

The Lenten collapse in the gay world is quite complete Receptions, balls, parties, matinées have gone to join like e occasions before the flood. We are all penitent and fired; the gloss is off our best clothes, and the off our cheeks; some of us are low in spirits, and low in pocket; some of us have the neuralgia, and some the dyspepsia, from late hours and late eating; all are in-clined to favor the Catholic and Episcopal custom of a too meager, dinner parties are not, I believe, ruled out, and we have yet concerts and sociables and delightful ittle informal tea parties. Said a gentleman, of fine culthre and taste, the other day, " Now that the seas over, it is time for sensible people to begin to enjoy them-

The Literary Reunions at the house of the Hon. Horatic King are still continued, and are very pleasant and popular. On next Saturday evening, your correspondent is to discourse in that homelable description. is to discourse in that hospitable drawing-room on one of the medieval strong-minded—Joan D'Arc.

Now and then, we still hear of some anniversary, the secasion of much sensible jolity, at which Major Ben. Perley Poore—the " Poore we have always with us," and always hope to have-wins fresh laurels by some happy speech or witty sentiment, and a belated wedding or two has brought even severe fashion for a little time, from the sanctuary and the cloister. Our theatrical season has not been very brilliant. We have had no good tragedian except Mr. E. I. Davenport, who gave us some of his finest personations; among them, and best of all, his scholarly Hamlet. We have had the sensational, with Miss Western, and the emotional, with Maggie Mitchell; now Mrs. Bowers is to divulge "Lady Andley's Secret," and the Chapman Sisters are to set upon us with "Forty Thieves"—which, after all, will not be much worse than the last English Opera Troupe, which, sub Rosa, gave some very tifferent performances, for excellent pay-It seems we can pay too dear for even Parepa's divine whistle, and when, as in the Matinee, even that is want ing, the disappointment and chagrin of Innocent operagoers is really pittable.

Did you notice, some weeks since, a spirited little speech by Mr. Schurz against a proposed appropriation for an International Fair, to be held in Washington Though only an adopted son of the proud and jealous Republic, he dared to tell the truth about the present unfitness of the Capital for such an undertaking and such a display. He is opposed to inviting all the world to come and "spy out the nakedness of the land"-to subject themselves to the peculiar inconveniences and exaspera tions of even a brief residence in our straggling, half decayed, half-unfinished, half-spleudid, half-unsightly town-deficient even now in comfortable accommoda tions for its inhabitants. I quite agree with him. The truth he speaks is hitter, but wholesome-tonic and Teutonie. I hope it will do good. I would not come to Washington if I were the Exposition, I would not go to any city which and ligited, which had no handsome theater or opera-house, no park for riding and driving-which had no hotels, or boarding-houses, for strangers, except such as were too expensive for princes or toe poor for Behemiaus. I don't want it to come here to comment on the ragged condition of things around our Capitol; to criticise the Capitol itself-that fatal architectural marriage of youth and old age-of costly display and shabby ugliness. The old building had at least the dignity of unpretending plainness and the beauty of proportion-now it makes part of a splendid incongruity-a costly inconvenience-an imposing disappointment-the folly and despair of national legislation On a dim, murky day. I never look down from the gallery of the House on the poor fellows in that great noisy pit into which enters no ray of natural light, no breath of natural air, without thinking tof the Slaughter of the

Innocents-with a difference. The only thing that could reconcile me to the removal of the Capitel is the thought that this magnificent failure would be taken down, stone by stone, and never put un in the same manner again (" take any shape but that!" or might be left here, as a national asylum for insane architects. Then, too, we might hope that some of the onstrous things we call works of art would be suffered to remain behind, or be demolished in the flitting, and that it would be quite impossible for the new Capital to collect together such another lot of rubbish. You may have seen that the modest little sum of \$130,000 is asked group for the pediment of the southern wing of the Capitel. Mr. Mills is the son of Clark Mills, esq., best known to fame through his Jackson, or rather through his rearing and "cavorting" war-house, for the old here himself is quite a secondary personage. "Sculping" doubtless runs in the Mills family, and the young man has also inherited some of his father's industry and enterprise. I think I may venture to say that neither belong to that divine order of mills so often referred to by orators and reformers—they neither "grind slowly" nor do they "grind exceeding fine." I have not seen the model of the group it is proposed to set up on this magnificent "coign of vantage," to challenge the criticism of the world. Some of our local reporters say it is highly " poetical, allegorical, and moral in character," and I suppose we ought to be satisfied; but, on the face of it, there is something absurd in the proposal to intrust a work of such difficulty and importance to a young man

an artist. Mr. Mills may yet be able to plan and execute as great works as the one needed for this position, but I cannot believe he is now competent. Then the house he springs from has had its share of patronage. Mr. Mills's père has received much sustenance from Government-welfishly savage and inhospitable to great artists, she adopted and fostered him-and later, has been almost equally kind to Mr. Stone. They are her Romulus and Remus, and it is full time they were weaned. It is time that some national immissions were given to our best artists-men whose native genius and long years of patient, heroic study and labor have won reputations not confined to their native land, which in many cases has proved to them but a niggardly patroness, a sorry stepmother. I will not ask the contract for this "big job" for Miss Hosmer or Miss Stebbins, as Congress is not up to the justice of paying equal wages for equal work, except, indeed, when the woman be exceptionably young and pretty, but I should say give it to Palmer, an artist of thoughtful gentus, long experience and careful study. It would be no experiment with him. Twelve or thirteen years ago be modeled a group for one of these very Capitol pediments, representing the "Landing of the Pilgrims," noble and beautiful in spirit and design; but the artist's time was too valuable for lobbying, his works being in great and constant de mand at home, and he failed to obtain the commission Or, let it be given to J. Q. A. Ward, an emineutly manly sculptor, with the genius to conceive and the thorough artistic knowledge to execute a group for that pediment,

which we should all be proud to look up to. It does not seem to me necessary to have anything allegorical or ideal in such a group. There is surely enough that is heroic, tragic, pathetic, and sacred in the history of our last ten years to furnish real life scenes to both culptor and painter. We have enough of allegory and poetic license in Persico's sprawling groups, in the dread ful War and more dreadful Peace of the eastern front of the Capitol-in Greenough's Washington, appealing to Heaven and the Dorcas Society, and in those resplenden frescoes of the Rotunda, wherein the Father of his Country, all in lilac and gold, is represented in a sort of Mohammedan apotheosis, among the Houris-made to sit forever with the girls, like a naughty idie school boy who doesn't repent. Ab, could that brave, simple country gentleman come back, and see himself thus disposed. and draped, and what is called "idealized," would be like the picture! The group that is wanted for this pediment may be as

petic, as real, in character, but it should be something dignified, decent, and distinctly American; though for that matter, if the works of art which now adorn the Capitol are not distinctively American, what are they ! As the old East India storekeeper asked, "If A-s-h-a don't spell Asia, what does it spell?" The works of J. Q. A. Ward not only exhibit strength and originality of genius, but, without resorting to clumsy allegory, are typical and national in subject and spirit. His Indian Hunler is not only a great artistic achievement, it is the most purely American place of statuary yet executed in this country. A copy of this in our Capitol would demonstrate even to the most inartistic that there could be power without colossial proportions, and strength withut ponderosity. One would suppose that most of the sculptures here had been executed by contract, at so much a tun. Indeed, these marbles would have been far preferable in the simple, placid form of panels and pillars than in such wretched distortions and abortions of art as now disfigure the Capitol. The French Government appoints an Art Commission

made up of eminent connoisseurs, and, on their judgment, secures to itself the choicest products of French genius. Our Government buys at twice the value of real works of art the huckstered and lobbied monstrosities and imbecilities of daubers and stone-cutters, Is there never to be an end of this? Instead of inviting and rewarding true merit, is the Government to go on discouraging and insulting it, by patropizing only pretension and ignorance! The Government that paid down ten thousan dollars in good gold for that lubberly Franklin of P -ers's, and a like sum for his lackeyish Jefferson -- in
has set up costly "graven images" of Stone, before which no man is guilty of breaking the second commandmentwould scarcely have taken Brown's spiendid statue of Greene, which has brought a great life into the haunted old Hall of Representatives, except as a gir. It pays royally for the painted plagiarisms and historical falsifyings of Powell, and for a portrait of Lincoln, in which that lamented Martyr is remartyred, while it turns a

cold shoulder to real pictures by real artists.

I am told that there is in Albany, in some hall or club house, a finepainting by the great French marine artist Isabey, representing Perry's Victory. That picture—so runs the story-was ordered mere than 20 years ago by Congress, but some informality in the commission allowed that honorable body to repudiate the wargain. The subject rendering the picture almost unsalable in Europe, the artist was obliged to dispose of it here, at a great fice. Since that time, as you know, everything of Isa bey's has increased in value; so our Government lost nething beside honor in the transaction. Why cannot we have some of the masterly portraits of Ames and Page for the Capitol, the White-House, and the State tment! Why cannot we have in the new vacant panels of the House of Representatives landscapes and marines by Church and Bierstadt, and by our Philadelphia painters, Rothermel and Hamilton I The pictures of Mr. Hamilton are almost peculiarly the luxuries of rich Philadelphians; they are not known as they should be known elsewhere—certainly not in Washington. Nature left out of him, as she leaves out of most poetic artists, the pushing, lobbying, bar-gaining element. A few of his pictures have been purchased by connoisseurs of New-York and Boston, and a few have gone to London, where they are greatly admired, his water colors especially Mr. Dickens took home one of his marine views-" What are the Wild Waves Saying "-which, I hear, now hangs in a place of honor in the charming library of Gad's-Hill There is one picture by Mr. Hamilton which would show grandly in the Capitol. It is a large sea view by moonlight-a vivid and tremendous scene, representing the capture of the Scrapis by the Bon-hor Richard, commanded by that indomitable seadion, that half mythical hero, Paul Jones. The French ship dismantled, riddled, and burning, is belehing out fire and smoke, crimsoning the crests of the waves and the white moonlight, and painting the clouds with a fearful glare. The flames seem to me to be of a peculiar ghastly red, as though colored by the blood they have licked up from the steaming deck. This picture has an absolute historic value, and ought to belong to the nation.

ORGANIZATION-HINTS TO THE DIRECTORS OF

THE "WOMAN'S RIGHTS" MOVEMENT. To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: In these days of cooperative effort, the first necessity of each new enterprise is to organize The second necessity, which is like unto the first, is to concentrate action. White the Association must belong equally to everybody who complies with the terms of admission-that is, who pays his initiation fee, or who represents means or principles, as the case may be-the administration thereof, if it would possess efficiency, must pertain to the fewest practicable number of persons -must it not ! A popular institution-such as all su cessfu! American associations aspire to be-evidently requires also an impressive array of distinguished name representing largest finances, broad views, or remote localities. Now, to make all these serve the purpose in tended, and yet not impede the concentrated efficiency of the administrative fow-that would seem to be the last American problem. "One Man power," which has been wonderfully effective in the Old World, is found to be contrary to the genius of our institutions; yet weighty names may decide indiscreetly or be ill-informed in

contrary to the genius of our institutions; yet weighty names may decide indiscreetly or be ill-informed in special cases; and are not the people obviously an undisciplined mob when they attempt anything like deliberative action! Clearly, therefore, is it not desirable that they should all act through representatives!

The first stage, then, completes an elaborate and infinential organization. The last stage—"the last shall be first" in all important results—concludes the far-seeing manipulation of this imposing organization, by means of indicious constitutional provisions, which makes it uterly powerless to act of itself, either for good or evil. The simulatest feasible number of accredited meetings of the Association should be constitutionally provided for, and it should be equally out of the power of private members, and of the august body itself, to commit the association to any policy or course of action whatever. All such positive measures should be specially provided for. An efficient committee, cor sub-committee, thus has everything well under control; the whole organization existing and acting in a thoroughly predigested state from the beginning. Is not this the crowning test of a consistent policy!

Of course, if it be a moneyed corporation, dividends must be made promptly and honestly. If it he a political party, every one should be constrained to take note that nobody can be compromised by injudicious or conflicting party pronunciamientos. If it he a reform organization, popular meetings, beid under the anspices of the association—but no owns poaching upon the prefixes—should be kept in active operation. It should be the steady policy to dwell largely upon the entire and unvarying equality of all members, even the humblest, and upon the perfect system of representation for the most obscure interest, and the most remote locality.

If the above be not an embodiment of the highest policy for any and every American Association, then what ist New Fork, Feb. 14, 1870.